

Approved June 2, 2017

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Minutes for May 24, 2017, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Bangs Center, Garrabrants Room**

Present: Peggy Roberts, Alan Powell, Barbara Ford, Jacqueline Maidana, Chris Riddle, Patricia Holland

Absent: Mary Streeter

Visiting: Mary Wentworth

Peggy Roberts called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

1. **Public Comment:** Mary Wentworth, a former member of TMCC, explained her list of five comments on the recent town meeting. 1. She objected to the use of white, red, and green cards at TM, saying their use stifled discussion, and she asked us to reexamine their use. 2. She felt there were too many pre-TM meetings, making attendance difficult for parents. She admired the Meet the Candidates meeting. 3. On the bus tour, she felt we should simply prohibit discussion of the pros and cons of articles connected to locations we visit. 4. TM should train people how to use the microphones by having a demonstration. 5. She felt the practice of addressing the moderator while speaking at TM is too limiting—that it would be simpler for the moderator to allow questions addressed to a person knowledgeable about an issue.
2. **TMCC Events:** The TMCC-sponsored meeting about the elementary schools will be held June 6th, from 6-7:30 PM, in the Town Room, with Amherst Media to televise. Alan suggested getting Jeff Lee to sit down with Supt. Michael Morris and modify the existing powerpoint. Peggy said the costs of different plans should be discussed at the meeting. To publicize the event, Chris will talk to Mary Streeter about an announcement to TM members, do a press release, and discuss the agenda with Mr. Morris. Chris will propose that the title be “Exploring the Future of Amherst’s Elementary Schools.”
3. **Discuss Town Meeting:** No time to discuss.
4. **Town Meeting Improvements:** The subcommittee, SPP, is planning a forum to discuss a Town Meeting Advisory Committee.
5. **Website, Google Contact and Listserv:** No time to discuss.
6. **Scheduling of Meetings:** The next meetings will be Friday, June 2, and Friday, June 9, both at 4 PM.
7. **Topics Not Anticipated 48 Hours Before Meeting:** None.
8. **Minutes:** No time to discuss.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Documents Distributed:

Agenda